

Trouble as a Door of Hope

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Introduction

Jehovah's statement regarding the valley of Achor (i.e., trouble) as a door of hope occurs as He calls wayward Israel to repentance (Hosea 2:14-20, esp. vs. 15).

Historical Association

- The Destruction of Jericho (Josh. 6:1-21, 24).
- The Disobedience of Achan (Josh. 7:1; Lev. 27:28; cf. 1 Sam. 15:10-23).
- The Defeat at Ai (Josh. 7:2-5).
- The Despair of Joshua (Josh. 7:6-9).
- The Declaration of God (Josh. 7:10-15).
- The Discovery, Denunciation & Death of Achan (Josh. 7:16-26).

Practical Application

- Hope in Personal Discipline (Prov. 23:17-21; Ezra 10:1-4; 1 John 3:1-3).
- Hope in Parental Discipline (Prov. 19:18; 29:15, 17).
- Hope in Divine Discipline (Rom. 5:1-5; Heb. 12:4-11).

Conclusion

The encouraging language of Hosea is echoed in the prophecies of Isaiah, as he foreshadows the blessings associated with the coming Messiah; however, note the consequences of a refusal to repent (Isa. 65:8-12).